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the "Pottery of the Ancient Pueblos," the "Ancient Pottery of the Mississippi Valley," and as a corollary thereto the "Origin and Development of Ornament in Ceramic Art." Mr. F. H. Cushing gives a study of Pueblo pottery as illustrative of Zuni culture-growth. These papers afford ample illustrations of the laws already laid down of the development of the ceramic art, and are to be regarded as proving and confirming the gradual evolution of the potter's trade, rather than as advancing new ideas. This, however, must not be taken as adverse criticism, but, on the contrary, as a recognition of an important point in the articles. In connection with them the reader should refer to Professor F. W. Putnam's recent paper on "Conventionalism in Ancient American Art" (*Bulletin Essex Inst.*, xviii., 1887), to which we shall have occasion to refer again.

Beal's Grasses of North America.¹—This volume is, in fact, Part I. of a large work the second part of which, we are informed in the preface, is in preparation. When completed it will be the most important work on grasses ever brought out in this country. The part before us includes seventeen chapters devoted to the following subjects,—viz., structure, form, and development of grasses; the power of motion in plants; plant-growth; classifying, naming, describing, collecting, studying; native grazing-lands; grasses for cultivation; early attempts to cultivate grasses; testing seeds; some common weeds; grasses for pastures and meadows; preparation of the soil, and seeding; care of grass-lands; making hay; look the world over for better grasses, and improve those we now have; grasses for the lawn, the garden, and for decoration; the Leguminosæ, pulse family; the enemies of grasses and clovers; the fungi of forage-plants.

It will thus be seen that the range of topics is much wider than that which we usually find in books designed for popular use. In fact, it is doubtful whether many farmers will care much for the first three or four chapters; but, for all that, it is a hopeful sign when an author who is as well acquainted with the farming classes as Dr. Beal is, will deliberately open his book with a scientific discussion of structure, form, and development. Many a farm boy, in consulting this book, will be inspired with a desire to learn more about the methods of scientific study.

In the first chapter there are many matters touched upon which are interesting to the scientific botanist. The closed sheaths of some grasses and the partially-closed ones of many others are referred to, and some interesting figures are given. The mech-

¹ Grasses of North America, for Farmers and Students, comprising chapters on their physiology, composition, selection, improving, cultivation, management of grass lands; also chapters on clovers, injurious insects, and fungi. By W. J. Beal, M.A., M.Sc., Ph.D., Professor of Botany and Forestry in Michigan Agricultural College. Published and copyrighted by the author. Agricultural College, Mich., 1887. Pp. xiv. 457, with 175 figures. Price, \$2.50.

anism for opening and closing the leaf-blades is discussed at some length, and amply illustrated. Many a botanist will here find a fuller account of the curious "bulliform cells" of the grass-leaves than he can readily find access to elsewhere. The torsion of the leaves is another curious subject to which some attention is given. "In half or more of the grasses examined, the whole or a majority of the leaves, by a twist of the lower portion of the blade, turn 'wrong side up' and expose the lower side to the sunlight."

The style of the author is well adapted to the purpose of the book, and no farmer need hesitate to purchase it for fear of its being too technical. The mechanical execution of the book is good, the illustrations are accurate, and the printing is well done upon good paper. Some typographical errors mar the pages here and there; but these can easily be corrected in a second edition, which will certainly be demanded. The author is to be congratulated upon the successful completion of this valuable book. The second part will be looked for with keen interest.—*Charles E. Bessey.*

RECENT BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS.

- Smithsonian Institution.*—Annual Report of the Board of Regents for 1884. Part II. Report on the U. S. National Museum, by G. B. Goode; with papers on the collections, by O. T. Mason, J. Murdoch, F. W. True, etc.
- White, F. E., Dr.*—Hygiene as a Basis of Morals. Reprinted from Popular Science Monthly, 1887. From the author.
- Stone, G. H.*—Terminal Moraines in Maine. From the author. 1887.
- Giard, M. A.*—Sur la castration parasitaire chez l'*Eupagurus bernhardus* Linné et chez la *Gebia stellata* Montagu. 1887.—Sur un Copepode parasite de l'*Amphiura squamata*. 1887. Both from the author.
- Boulenger, G. A.*—On New Batrachians from Malacca.—Remarks on Dr. A. Strauch's Catalogue of the Geckos in the Zoological Museum of St. Petersburg.—Description of a New Tailed Batrachian from Corea.—On New Fishes from the Lower Congo.—On a New Calamaria from Borneo.—A Synopsis of the Snakes of South Africa.—Description of a New Megalophrys. All from Ann. and Mag. Nat. History, 1887.
- Halsted, B. D.*—Bulletin of the Iowa Agricultural College, 1886. From the author.
- Stevenson, J. J.*—A Geological Reconnaissance of Bland, Giles, Wythe, and portions of Pulaski and Montgomery Counties, Va. 1887. From the author.
- Lighthall, W. D.*—Sketch of a New Utilitarianism. Montreal, 1887. From the author.
- Cook, G. H.*—Annual Report of the State Geologist (N. J.) for 1886. From the author.
- Mark, E. L.*—Simple Eyes in Arthropods. Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool. Harvard, 1887. From the author.
- Woodward, A. S.*—Notes on some Post-Liassic Species of *Acrodus*. Geol. Mag., 1887. From the author.
- McCalley, H.*—On the Warrior Coalfield. Geol. Surv. of Ala. From the author.
- Minot, C. S.*—Researches on Growth and Death. 1884.—Biological Problems. Both from the author.